LETTERS

Dear Black Flag,
You may be interested to know that the Workers Revolutionary Party...has split into eight groups...The old gang—Healy, the Redgraves, et al—have formed a group called the Marxist Party...It has 70 members. Corin Redgrave goes around lying about the previous membership. He claims it was 3000. In fact it was only around 1000. According to his figure the Party has lost 2930 members...According to the Marxist Party the split was engineered by MI5, the Murdoch Press, villainous social democrats and the Zionist conspiracy (sic). All because the WRP was the most threatening group on the left (some chance)!!

Readers may also be interested in the fact that some things never change. The Marxist Party locks its own members into meetings and they have to ask to leave. Paranoia is such that members address each other as Comrade X etc...in order not to divulge their identities. Corin Redgrave has just had a holiday in Greece, although he felt he had to hide this by saying he was furthering proletarian struggle in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Deep Throat.

Comrades,
I would like to hear from people who may be able to help with litigation I'm taking against the prison system here in regards to asbestos contamination and trichlorethene contamination. I am suffering from skin cancer (melanoma) and mild fibrosis in my lungs as a result of exposure while I've been



incarcerated (I've got 18 months to go). I need all the help and insight I can get as I'm taking on a very criminal government. They like to change the laws to protect themselves.
Michael Hyde
18988-013, B-Unit,
US Penitentiary,
3901 Klein Blvd.,
Lompoc,
CA 93436,
USA.

THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN!

A well-paid lecturer, Dr Brian Bamford, who chooses to live in Andalucia to take advantage of local poverty, became so alarmed at the Gibraltar shootings nearby (had he not been associated with 'anarchism' and might he not be suspect if he didn't make frantic signals?) that he wrote an article in *Freedom* (sic) referring to his own 'minor excursion' into anarchism, saying (which would be apt) how its 'comical aspect' was proved when someone discussed action with him at a Freedom Press gathering; and sneered at Stuart Christie's incursion into fighting Franco.

As nothing to the bourgeois Press nor Freedom 'Centennial' review could be more ridiculous than a 'young Scot' joining the Spanish resistance—he must have been wearing, so says Bamford (who despite his pretension probably never met him), 'full Scottish regalia' (whatever that is) when he went out for the croissants (if he'd been Jewish, presumably Bamford would have him in skull cap and sidecurls and going out for the bagels).

Our regular dilemma: If one points out this is all a load of bollocks, some fool refers to 'anarchists' as always 'bickering' and 'feuding'; if one doesn't say anything, one of the mad professors writing up on anarchism from the archives of the taken-over *Freedom* passes it into history. ('The aversion of English anarchists to Scottish manifestations... Freedom, op cit' Prof. Ludwig Gans, History of Freedom Press, *25th vol, Holy Mother Univ of Fulda Press*). So we'll wait until they get protests and say it's a misprint. But have you considered the phenomenon of many anarchists still taking seriously the idea that the present Freedom clique presents a liberal pacifist middle class version of anarchism, when it's rather of anti-anarchism?

DINO GRANDI

The first and last of the 'fascisti inglese' Count Dino Grandi died, aged 92. He was sneeringly called the 'English Fascist' when Mussolini began to follow Hitler's lead—for he was the 'model fascist', all but an English gentleman, admired and respected by the British upper class. He turned to fascism from the beginning when it was exclusively concerned with smashing the workers, and destroying the worker occupation of factories; the British Fascisti was modelled on it as a strike-breaking force. He sneered at Hitler's populist line and when racism was introduced into Italy late in the regime's life, he felt it to be unnecessarily divisive. The British aristos understood him and he them; he was popular with Conservatives who, like Churchill, felt that if they were Italian, they too would be Fascists like him. He became Foreign Minister because of his world contacts.

He hoped that Italy and Britain would not go to war but divide out a colony or two between them. He could have saved Mussolini and Fascism, as Hirohito's empire was saved, if he'd been listened to. Pity there isn't a hell for the old gobshite to rot in all on his own.

PROFITS OF DOOM

The regimes of West Africa have hit upon a new way of raking in money—namely to take in the nuclear and other toxic waste of the West, at a price and to the detriment of the local populace. One British company, Hobday Ltd of the Isle of Man joined forces with Bis Import-Export of London and Lindeco of Detroit to place a contract with Guinea-Bissau. Between 1 and 3 million tonnes of toxic waste over five years will be dumped as a result.

The toxic waste disposal business is proliferating. Other companies involved include Inter-Contrat of Switzerland (with Guinea-Bissau) and Sesco Ltd of Gibraltar (with Benin). The Sesco deal has secured them a 10 year monopoly with Benin. The Benin government has also agreed to accept French toxic waste in exchange for 30 years of economic assistance. All of the companies involved are making vast profits. The deal with the West African countries is that the companies pay $50 per tonne dumped. Yet their clients are paying them $1000 a tonne to get rid of the stuff.

The dumping standards are very lax—the waste is just left on the open ground, often near to villages and to the open sea. Inevitably there will be leukaemia strains and the sea life will be poisoned, which in turn will poison the local people who depend upon fish as part of their staple diet. In the West the cry is 'not in our back yard', so Africa is seen as more convenient. The rulers in those West African regimes will make a fast buck while the people will die in order that Western industrialist can continue to pollute.

FROM CARE TO INCARCERATION

The Tories have 'promised' that if they win the county elections in Nottinghamshire they will transfer the Beechwood children's home into a detention centre. This 'reform' would have the effect of putting twice as many children behind lock and key and follows pressure from the 'libertarian right'—so gawd knows what the 'authoritarian right' propose—hanging the little buggers?

Late News

AND NOW...THE EURO I.D. CARD

In December 1974 a European Summit in Paris set up a research body to look at a Euro-passport, establishing common laws in relations to 'aliens', etc. In June 1981 this body proposed formally the passport. In February 1986 changes were made to the EEC treaty to make this possible, and to establish a free-trade situation by 1992 and the ending of border controls in 1990. This 'liberalisation' will in fact bring about tighter I.D. controls.

On new controls for police and security the member states of the EEC, the TREVI Group, the respective Justice departments and the respective ministers of home affairs will work together in exchanging information, dealing with terrorism, immigration, etc. Another grouping will also coordinate information on the control of refugees, citizenship, extradition, etc. In addition there will be an integration of foreign policies of member states of the European Council, the TREVI Group and the EEC.

The Dutch minister of Justice, Korthals-Altes, recently said that 'The registration of social-fiscal numbers has to be combined with a more general identity card, with name, address and registration number. Such an identity card should also be a part of the new European passport, so that the European computers will be able to keep an eye on everyone.'
(here in the UK this Euro I.D. system will coincide with the planned completion of registration of all adults under the Poll Tax system. The 'registration number' referred to could, in the UK's case, be the Poll Tax number. The implication is that Poll Tax dodgers will be able to be monitored as they move through Europe—eds.)

The European states are working, bit by bit, towards unnoticable electronic registration, where the magnetic strip in the new European passport can pass on information to the Euro-wide computer network.

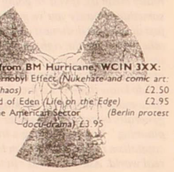
Another area of concern is the effect on industrial relations. With liberalisation' of trade barriers the result will be a concerted international attack on trade unionism. Companies will be able to re-locate that much easier and switch labour markets when 'difficulties' arise. There will be Euro-wide blacklists of industrial troublemakers and political agitators. The industrialists are prepared for the 1990's, but are the unions?

(Adapted from Frontline Info.)

'On the night of January 24 we attempted to carry out an attack against the ELBA printing company, in Schiedam near Rotterdam, which is responsible for the printing of the new European passport. Six cans of petrol plus detonators were used (among other things) in the hope of burning everything to the ground. 'Our' passport has been contracted out to a private holding, comprising both Phillips and ELBA.'

No Pasaran commando.

BOOKS TO SUBVERT WITH!
From HOOLIGAN PRESS



NEW **from BM Hurricane, WC1N 3XX:**
The Chernobyl Effect (Nukewatch and comic art by Doc Chaos) £2.50
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Please add 40p each for p&p. Thanks!

Waldo Sez: Get the Set!



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BLACK FLAG 30p
FOR ANARCHIST RESISTANCE
9-7-88

BIG BROTHER SOLD OFF

Quite soon personal information on almost everyone in the UK will be co-ordinated on behalf of the state by a leading defence systems contractor. This company, we can reveal, is also linked to the blacklisting business.

The Government Data Network (GDN) is no longer the nightmarish vision of Whitehall bureaucrats, but an imminent reality. The contract to establish a central network initially linking four major government departments was awarded to a consortium of Racal and Scicon. This contract also leaves the running and expanding of the system to Racal. The state with the backing of private corporations is nearing the time when it can boast total knowledge of all there is to fundamentally know about a person, and and access that information instantly. Knowledge is power and total knowledge is total control.

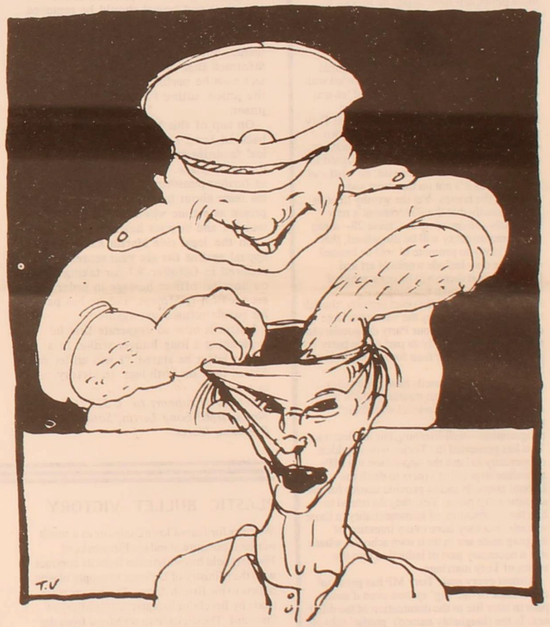
The system will start by absorbing the networks and databases presently run by the DHSS, Customs and Exise, Inland Revenue and Home Office and accessing this information from a base of 63,000 terminals. However, Racal's profits are estimated on the basis that the GDN will quadruple in size by 1995, supporting 240,000 terminals and incorporating other government departments. As it stands, the system will already bring together many of the major data banks: The Central Index (NI records), National Unemployment Benefit System (NUBS), NHS Central Register, Office of Population Census and Surveys, Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Passport Office (including the passport reading systems), the CODA and COB income tax databases and all the smaller specialised and local data banks under the control of the four departments. Links already exist between some of these systems and the police, security and intelligence computers and these links will now be strengthened with the transfer of data being made easier, quicker and more comprehensive than ever before. This has been facilitated by the setting up of CODIN—Cabinet Office Defence Intelligence—which provides a link between the databases and communication networks of MI5, MI6, GCHQ, Special Branch, the Defence Intelligence Section and the Ministry of Defence.

The important thing about all this is with whom all this information is being co-ordinated. Racal is not just an electronics company, but a leading international business in the area of defence contracts. It will mean that the control of personal information on virtually every person in the UK is handed over to a private sector company that has intimate links with the country's defence systems.

The information at their disposal will include files and access to files on security risk personnel, as well as known subversives, etc. The GDN system in itself is a major leap in totalitarian control. Now that level of control is being given a defence priority.

Furthermore there is the knowledge that Racal, through its subsidiaries, is a major subscriber to the blacklisting agency, the Economic League. And so it is feasible that the GDN system could provide a backup input to the EL's activities, and vice versa. This is not a case of paranoia, but simple deduction.

Big Brother information processing has thus taken a new direction. The control of information has returned to the capitalists direct. In the era of the pending Euro-passport and the expansion of the Euro-market this means that social and political, as well as industrial, control, takes on a new significance.



A CALL TO ARMS

By witholding the rightful assets (illegally sequestrated under Franco) of the CNT-AIT, the anarcho-syndicalist labour union, the Spanish state is clearly hoping that anarchism will go under in Spain. Now with the UGT, the socialist union in alliance with the ruling Spanish government, conspiring to grab the CNT-AIT funds by their backing the phoney CNT (see last Black Flag) this threat is more tangible than ever.

On June 15 sections of the IWA (International Workers Association), to which the genuine CNT is affiliated, took action in support of the return of these assets. In different countries the embassies and consulates of the Spanish state were either picketed or symbolically occupied. In Spain itself the CNT-AIT took similar action. But this can only be the beginning.



If the UGT have approached one union bloc (ie the British TUC) to put pressure on the Spanish state to return the assets to the phoney CNT (with whom the UGT hopes to go in, if they are not with them already—which seems more likely) then there is no reason not to suppose that the UGT have not made similar approaches to other union blocs in other countries. The situation is thus now becoming a battle between the socialist international and the anarchist—the 'prize' being Spanish unionism.

The socialists are more apt at politicking as this is their natural specialism, while the anarchists will have to fight as they have always done—by direct action. It is no longer a simple case of assets—although this in itself is sufficient grounds for mobilisation—but a direct challenge to anarchism. These days if a union gets its assets sequestrated, even legally, then the left shout 'unfair'. But here we are talking about a mass organisation that had its assets and resources sequestrated illegally under fascism and never returned. Furthermore the Spanish state, which purports to have renounced fascism, continues to uphold its methods.

In this way the Spanish state is continuing the policies of Franco and those that support the witholding of these assets can also be seen as collaborators to these policies. Let the truth be known and let people stand up and be counted.

Union branches that abhor sequestration and these Francoist methods and which remember their proud tradition in showing physical solidarity to the Spanish workers when the fascists sought power, should now come to the assistance once again.

And anarchists everwhere should be clear what is happening. We are not dealing with history but with the survival of a mass anarchist movement. The theft and continuing theft of the assets that rightfully belong to that movement is just a first step towards a wider plan to ensure that movement is crushed.

We call upon anarchists everwhere to act now. In particular let this July become a month for direct action in support of the CNT-AIT and the movement in Spain. We must act to see that justice is done.

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For a social system based on mutual aid and voluntary co-operation - against State control and all forms of government and economic re-pression. To establish a share in the general prosperity for all - the breaking down of racial, religious, national and sex barriers - and to fight for the life of one world.

SEX AND THE TORY PARTY

Most politicians have to pay lip service to Christian ideas of morality, whatever their practice: in this the Tory Party is neither more nor less hypocritical than anyone else in public office. Their sycophants may be humbugs—such as the judge who held that Jeffrey Archer could not have consorted with a prostitute since his wife possessed 'charm and fragrance' (one in the eye for John Profumo's ex-film star wife?)—but real Tory philosophy on sex may be summed in two commandments: thou shalt not be found out, and thou shalt cherish it as much too good for the working classes. Otherwise, do what you like as not as it's not on the street and frightens the horses. Yet the worthy liberals protest loudly that the government's new proposals—summed up as Clause 28—mean that homosexuality will be illegalised; that works 'likely to promote it' will be banned and these may include works of art and literature; that there will be censorship of books and classroom teaching.

They have missed the point entirely, though this has been echoed by the whole package deal left from the Labour Party do-gooders to revolutionaries, mostly as part of the party political game rather than for any result it will have.

A few Labour councils have gone in for 'anti-sexist' awareness courses, which have on the whole been on a level with their' anti-racist awareness' programmes—well-meaning but ineffective. This has presented the Tories with a golden opportunity to bash the opposition via MPs appealing to populist voters to ditch the Labour councils and to provide stories for the sensationalist press. Yes, they do intend to ban the' promotion' of homosexuality in those schools. But they have every intention of keeping male sex in their own schools, where it is a necessary part of induction into the ethics of Tory marriage.

Almost every male Tory MP has personal experience of the 'fag' system even if most pass in later life to the domination of the other sex. In the (laughably named) 'public' schools like Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Winchester, which are really class/sex segregated schools for the rich, there is no intent of stopping the upper class schoolboy preparing for superiority by lording it over his juniors. But in the schools for the public a sympathetic approach to sexual diversity will be banned; and this is clearly in the Bill. (What isn't clear is whether public school stories will be banned in the rate-aided schools, or if they'll go on reading Tom Brown's Schooldays!)

Books by authors like E.M.Forster or Christopher Isherwood will not be banned: tney may be withdrawn from public libraries, but you'll be able to walk into W.H.Smith and buy them for cash. Maybe, following an old tradition, they'll go into expensive editions to make sure they go only to the 'respectable'.

All this is in line with the privatisation mentality and it is an irony that it should be thought of as a sally into morality, much as the likes of Geoffrey Dickens and Rhodes Boyson would like to see themselves as champions of outraged pseudo-Christianity and of the Right in both senses (realising the electoral advantage of the 'loony left' exaggeration which almost equates heterosexuality with middle class values, knowing nothing of the working class either).

Unless they've been indoctrinated at posh schools that money gets and blesses everything, the kids of the next generation will grow up (or not wait) and decide for themselves how they'll behave sexually and here their inclinations lie.

HOME NEWS

At Her Majesty's Pleasure

The recent series of degradations that Martin Foran has been subjected to while serving a sentence for a crime he didn't commit, make grim reading.

A couple of months ago Martin's colostomy bag burst and spilt it's contents down his trousers. The prison authorities responded by saying they couldn't issue him with clean trousers for ten days and he was forced to spend the next week and a half wearing just his underpants, even having to have his family visit him in this condition.

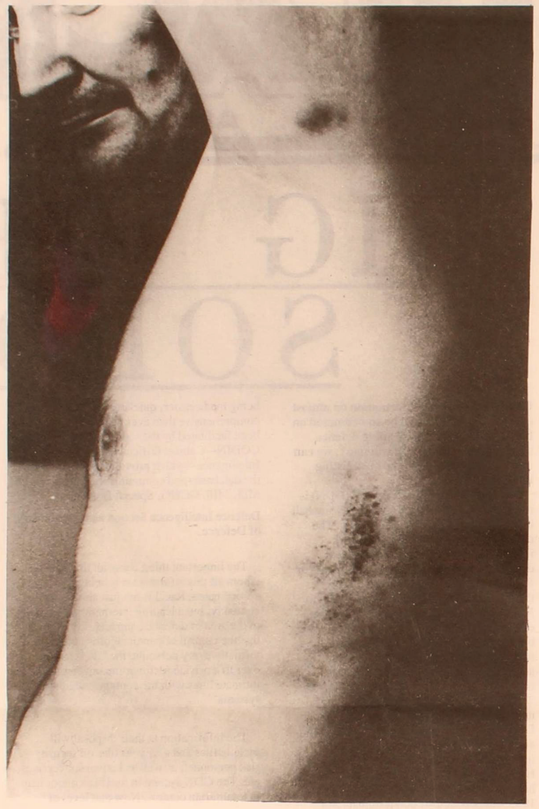
Now he has been told that his long-awaited second colostomy operation is to go ahead – in Parkhurst Prison! Previously a specialist at St Marks hospital in London and the prison doctor were in agreement that all Martin's lower intestines and bowel should be removed in hospital – a delicate operation requiring three months in intensive care afterwards. But three weeks ago Martin was informed that only half the operation will now be performed, in order that the prison authorities can keep him in prison.

On top of this Martin has been sent back to Long Lartin prison, where medical facilities are worse, until the operation takes place. This can only be seen as further punishment as Martin expressed his fears about having the operation in prison at a time when he is depressed, worried and in poor health.

On the legal side Martin has lost his appeal against the six year sentence he received in October '87 for taking a prison hospital officer hostage in order to *get medical treatment, and he has had* his parole refused yet again.

Martin is now so desperate that he is planning a long hunger strike. In a recent letter he stated "I will either come out of here on both legs in victory, or in a box."

Letters of support to: C 51796 Martin Foran, HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs.



Injuries sustained by Martin Foran when beaten up by screws three weeks after his colostomy in October 1986

PLASTIC BULLET VICTORY

Whether for fear of losing sales or as a result of moral pressure Standard Fireworks of Huddersfield has withdrawn from its contract with the Ministry of Defence to supply plastic bullets to the British Army. The bullets were made by Brocks of Sanquar, a subsidiary of Standard. The decision to withdraw from the contract was made after Standard received a visit from relatives of people killed by the bullets in Northern Ireland.

The United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets organised the visit, which included a sister of a young girl who had been killed. However Standard has since said that it only promises to withdraw for the 'immediate future' as soon as the present contract expires. A spokesperson for the company stated that the decision was made for technical reasons. There are of course other companies that produce plastic bullets too. This current success should be built upon.

NATIONALISTS EMIGRATE

Daily Mail stands for King and Empire and used to proclaim it proudly on its banner headline (especially in the days when it flirted with fascism). It is still for sovereign and country, provided it doesn't interfere with business—it wants to transfer its headquarters to Holland, both as a tax dodge and to cut out British workers' practices. Her Majesty's government, perturbed at the loss of millions in tax, said No. The Mail, which still abominates unpatriotic workers, appealed (successfully) to the European High Court under Common Market Law against HMG.

Q & A ON ANARCHISM

Q. What is a social general strike—has there ever been one , or is it only a 'myth'?

A. There are two going on at the moment—one by Palestinians and another, on and off, by Polish workers. The most recent in the British Isles was the Ulster (Unionist) general strike. A social strike is a down-tools for reasons other than economic; obviously it demands a high level of consciousness and is more often done for nationalistic reasons. The taking over of econmomic power by the working classs must mean a social general strike against capitalism, but that alone won't do it and need not be revolutionary. Given revolutionary aims, it would not be a stoppage but a continuance of work, only a stoppage of service to the employers. The real myth is the one that workers power can be achieved by parliamentary and constitutional ways without the need for industrial action.



WHAT A LARK!

We have had occasion to refer to someone using the name Mick Larkin who has no activity other than publicising the Phoney CNT and so gets regularly into Freedom. We were always intrigued how so obscure a person became the spokesman for the State-backed phoneys. Now in a circular ('Black Farce—more tales of paranoia') attacking Black Flag for not publishing him, he says he is reverting to his 'real' name Mick Parkin!

There is only one point Parkin-Larkin makes which is of interest. Why do we attack the Phoney CNT for joining worker-management committees when Direct Action announces that the French CNT is in joint committees? We suspect he knows the answer, but for those who don't, such committees are not universally the same. In Spain, they are part of the corporate State set-up left over from fascism. In England and certain other countries they are part of trade union bargaining processes, the sort of thing fascism sets out to smash.

ANARCHO–QUIZ

1. Nebuchadnezzar was the worst tyrant of the ancient world—so why did Russian anarchists centuries later toast his memory?
2. What had Bomber Command leader Air Vice Marshal Lord Dowding have in common with General Ludendorff?
3. Was Churchill anti-Nazi?
4. Why did Mussolini become a Fascist?

Answers on page 4

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Holland

ANTI-RACIST COMMANDO'S REVOLUTIONARY ANTI-RACIST ACTION

For several years now Revolutionary Anti-Racist Action (RARA) have been attacking Dutch multinationals that collaborate with the South African regime. SHV, Shell and Van Leer have all been attacked, forcing SHV to pull out of South Africa (fire damage to SHV alone came to 40m). Apart from RARA other groups have taken part in this struggle in Holland (eg, Revolutionary Cells, autonomous groups and several commando groups with varying names). All this time the judicial apparatus didn't succeed in arresting, convicting or condemning anyone in connection with these actions.

However on April 11 a mass raid took place in Amsterdam. Three women and five men were arrested as a result. One person was able to escape. The police and the media were ecstatic, as they believe the hard core of RARA had been rounded-up. Within another week the LCT (special anti-terrorist police) had its second victory with the solving of the kidnapping of the industrialist, GJ Heijn. Those arrested on the April 11 raids were interrogated, but it became clear that the police had little evidence. The eight people (in total) arrested kept silent throughout five days of interrogation and then 5 were released, with another 2 released ten days later. One is still being held on remand. While the 8 were in custody demonstrations were held outside the different prisons, propaganda distributed,



and a march through Amsterdam organised. Since the arrests Shell petrol stations throughout Holland have been sabotaged in solidarity with RARA.

KEEPING THROWING SHELL

March 1988 was a month of a lot of actions against South Africa. In the early hours of March 7 thirty-seven large and small Shell petrol stations all over Holland were partly or completely destroyed. Hoses were cut, paying machines sabotaged, price and fuel indicators destroyed, and underground fuel tanks polluted. However it was bad luck that 4 people were arrested (due to a burglar alarm going off). Those arrested stupidly gave their names, which led to raids and incriminating evidence being found. Those arrested are now out on bail and their trial is pending.



Denmark

Bully Fighting - Copenhagen Style

In May there was a week of actions in Copenhagen involving demonstrations and direct attacks. The press put out the usual rubbish and talked about an impending 'bloodbath' and goading the police by suggesting the BZ (squatters resistance group) had the upper-hand. The climax came when squatters decided to leave a barricaded house. The police sealed off the local area, even though the squatters were visibly leaving the area. The police were then ordered to attack, which they did, beating people up. 21 were arrested, but later released on a variety of charges.



Immediately afterwards a large force of riot police, military police, dog-handlers and Special Branch raided the Youth House, where the recent demonstrations/festival had been organised. The house was defended but all 14 occupants were arrested and charged with 'accessory to violence'—a new law similar to the Public Order law in the UK and the association laws in South Africa.

In direct response a number of militants barricaded Norrebrogade and there was street fighting with the police, resulting in a smashed transit van; two wounded police sergeants. The group then withdraw to the squatted house in Baldersgade, which was then surrounded by police and tear gas used. A 3 hour siege ensued with police being fought off with bricks catapults and tear gas grenades (picked up and thrown back). Similar actions, in solidarity, took place in other parts of the town and consequently the police were forced to make a tactical withdrawal as they were under-resourced.

That evening over 300 people gathered at the Youth House and mobilised themselves into a march to Blegdamsvej prison where they smashed windows and attacked police cars. On the way back the demonstrators smashed windows of banks. The next day the press published lies claiming the BZ had attacked a kindergarten (in fact the kindergarten was tear-gassed by police). The Mayor called for the closure of the Youth House and a legal precedent was created when it was declared it was a criminal act to be in occupation of the Youth House.

More demonstrations were held outside the prison for the next two days and a recently begun pirate radio station broadcast messages of solidarity to imprisoned BZ'ers. The day after the 18 imprisoned were released on appeal. A few more days a mass demonstration was organised. Armed cops were present: they searched demonstrators and made arbitrary arrests. However one lot of cops were chased and caught by a group of 30 demonstrators and forced to release their prisoners.

Latest news is that Baldersgate is still under threat. The BZ call upon sympathisers to take similar action wherever they live.

Appeal From Greece

On November 17th 1985 at 23.15 a cop, Athanasios Melistas, shot dead a 15 year old anarchist comrade Mihalis Kaltezas, during a commemoration of the student revolt of 1973 against the military regime. Immediately after the assassination anarchist comrades occupied the chemistry school of the Athens University, protesting at the event.

On November 18th at 10.30 numerous cops armed with sub-machine guns and using tear gas invaded the place and arrested 39 comrades, including two boys of 15 and 13. The arrested were held in custody and tortured by cops and jailers, but due to solidarity from within the country and abroad and the 18 day hunger strike of Christos Kouteliers, they were all set free.

We must stress that the killer cop didn't stay a single day in custody and that he has still not been brought to trial.

On June 8th 1988 our 39 comrades will appear in front of the first court, accused of damaging the university, invading it, resisting arrest and impeding the traffic in nearby streets.

'WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THAT STATE BRUTALITY. We'll fight with every means for the innocence of our comrades and for the transformation of their trial into a trial of the state and its murderers,' write our Greek friends.

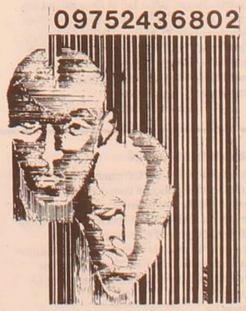
'We ask you to send letters, telegrams, to phone Greek embassies or consulates, to do everything so that the Greek state understands that Anarchists in this country are not alone in their struggle to smash not only that , but every state and every power in the world'.

Write to:
Menios Koutsoyorgas
Minister of 'Justice'
Zinonos and Pireos Str.
Athens, Greece

Please send messages of support to:
A.P./A.B.C. Greece
c/o 8, Aristidou Str.
10559 Athens
Greece

Thanks, Love and Anarchy
Anarchist Proposal/A.B.C. Greece

Aussie I.D. Number



In some quarters our assertion that the Australian I.D. card was made unnecessary by the use of a personalised I.D. number was met with disbelief. But now it has been officially admitted that the I.D. number system is to do exactly this. A similar system is working in the UK too.

In his mini-budget speech, the Australian federal treasurer, Tom Keating, announced that the Australian government plans to go ahead with the tax file number system to replace the Australian Card (national I.D.) plan. This will come into effect from July 1990. The new plan makes it clear that the tax file number will operate as an I.D. number. For example Australians will be obliged to quote their tax file number whenever they wished to open a bank account, or even to use that account, or whenever they wish to change jobs or when applying for state welfare. But this is only the beginning. Eventually the plan is that the number be used for all sorts of transactions. Effectively it will mean that people will have to carry the number around with then constantly in order to operate in present-day society.

The number is already being used as the central identifier in the country's main-frame computer network. In Black Flag 181 we revealed that the National Computer Centre now links together the records of departments of Social Security, Taxation, the Health Service, Defence and all registration statistics. The linking together of all this information provides the Australian state with a total surveillance system on every adult. By making it effectively obligatory for Australians to carry their tax number at all times this number can be used to check personal and biographical information just as an Identity Card could. In fact an I.D. number is far more effective—from the state's point of view—especially in this computing age.

So, like it or not, the Australian I.D. system has arrived—secretly.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

JIKA JIKA

It took the unfortunate deaths of five prisoners to finally close the doors of Pentridge Prison's notorious maximum security block, Jika Jika, in Melbourne Australia. Just after 4p.m. on October 29th 1987, Robert White, 32, David McGauley, 30, Richard Morris, 23, (all serving life for murder) Jim Loughnan, 37 and Arthur Gallagher, 29, both serving lengthy sentences for armed robbery began building a barricade of chairs, tables, mattresses and computers against the door to their six cell unit. When firemen and screws finally cut through the steel security door the five were found dead of asphyxiation.

Simultaneously five prisoners in the other wing of Jika lit a barricade on fire, but ripped it down when one was overcome by smoke.

Relatives of the five who died said that they had been told previously of the fives' plan to protest about the conditions at the max. Colleen Hunter, sister of Robert Wright, said she was told about it when she visited him earlier in the week. She said she told the Pentridge governor about her brother's statement, but was told to write to the attorney general's department. 'They were all prepared to die,' she said, 'I tried to forewarn the prison officials, but they just wouldn't listen.' Colleen also said that Robert had approached prison authorities and warned them. Prison screws and police at the prison refused to comment.

On the Wednesday evening prior to Thursday's fire, a prison source said that screws in K division (official name of Jika) were ordered to remove papers, magazines and other flammable material from the day room. The message had obviously gotten through to the powers that be; given that, how did five people die?

There have been other questions raised about the lack of intervention. The air conditioning wasn't turned on. The screw with the keys to the cupboard holding the oxyacetylene equipment was in another part of the prison when the fire started and the door couldn't be unlocked. There was no sprinkler system (too 'easy' for the prisoners to activate) in K division. The prison's internal radio jammed with overuse because there was no procedures to restrict communication. Prison officers could not find flashlights. The shadow attorney general, Chamberlain, said he had been 'concerned' about breaches of security for many months.

The typical sensationalism by some of the Australian media of a 'suicide pact', or 'fire directed at AIDS 2' after two prisoners with AIDS had been moved into the unit the morning of the fire, read much like some true confession rag. One screw said a prisoner had screamed after the move 'They're trying to kill us'. Weren't they already?

The Prisoners Action Group (PAG) states very clearly 'the protest that led to the Jika deaths was demanding the closure of that unit, changes to the methods of classification of prisoners and a full royal commission into all aspects of the prison system.' Jeff Lapidos of the PAG was refused permission to attend a press conference called by the attorney general, Kennan. After scuffling with the security guards and being forcibly restrained, he was later granted a private meeting where Kennan refused to call a royal commission to inquire into the tragedy.

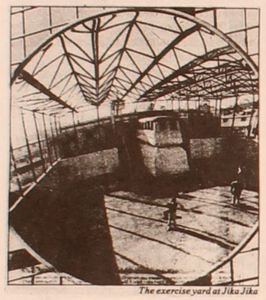
Jika Jika has been the subject of controversy since its opening in July 1980, largely due to the militancy of activists inside and outside the prison. It had come under the scrutiny of an official inquiry, the findings of which were so sensitive that the government didn't release the report. The PAG, however, obtained a copy of it through the Freedom of Information Act. The report found that the division was being used not for the purpose of security or protection, but as a disciplinary weapon against prisoners seen as management problems, as opponents of the max had long argued.

Jeff Lapidos said all five victims had been held in K division because they had long been protesters of inhumane prison conditions.

In september, it was reported that another prisoner in Jika was on hunger strike. Peter Michael Reid had been confined in the max since his arrest in the middle of 1986 in connection with the bombing of a police station. Even though he had not been convicted of any crime (on remand) he was still being held in Jika Jika.

At the same time Gallagher, Wright and McGauley had chosen another strategy, that of bronzing up (smearing) shit. The three had been bronzing up the doors and walls of their cells since the middle of March. They were also putting shit in the air conditioning system. Due to the ensuing health risks other prisoners had to be moved from the unit and prison screws were reluctant to work there. They had been seeking a full independent inquiry into Jika to investigate the real function of the division. As the PAG states, was it designed to break the inmate activists with sophisticated, more readily disguised psychological torture techniques, 'techniques tested and refined by uniformed terrorists like the Pentridge superintendent Gerald Myers?' Myers principal qualification for the position was 21 years service in the US army intelligence corps.

Arthur Gallagher's experience is a poignant case in point. He had a long history of militant political activism in Pentridge, frequently embarrassing the administration with complaints to the minister and ombudsman as well as acting as an inside contact for the PAG. In March 1988, Arthur and eight others were accused of planning a mass escape. Though never formally charged, Arthur was moved to Jika. The others were charged, but acquitted. Arthur had been in max ever since, moved there on grounds later proved to be spurious, in an obvious attempt to destroy his capacity for resistance and struggle.



The exercise yard at Jika Jika

The insidiously refined architecture of Jika Jika was such that a prisoner would find him or herself in absolute isolation; where food was passed in by unseen hands in a totally featureless environment devoid of nearly all forms of sensory stimulation. K division was so psychologically disorientating that the screws on duty had been known to lose their sense of direction entirely and many demonstrated signs of severe psychological stress after shifts. If the screws with the freedom to come and go suffered so, there can be little doubt of the devastating effects on the prisoners of a long period of solitary confinement.

Jika was never intended to be a section for 'security risks' or 'dangerous prisoners'. Adequate facilities for such classified inmates already existed in H division and in the high security section of B division. Its opening was, in the words of the PAG, 'a direct response to a decade of prisoners' revolt; revolt demanding an end to the systematic brutalisation and dehumanisation of prisoners.' The continued militancy of Gallagher and the other protesters culminating in the closure of Jika Jika demonstrates its failure to crush the spirit of revolt.

The prison officers' union had stated that the prison system was going to explode right across Australia and already since the Jika tragedy, Boggo Road Jail in Queensland has broken into a full scale riot, there have been disturbances at Parramatta Jail in Sydney, while in Melbourne there has been a dozen small fires with the screws entering the Pentridge jail in full riot gear on eight occasions.

Source: ABC Australia/Open Road



Richard Morris (inset), David McGauley, Robert Wright, Arthur Gallagher, Jim Loughnan, the five who died.

Answers to quiz

1. A pun: Russian anarchists toasted 'Nye bog a nye Tsar' (neither master nor Tsar)—and incidentally led to a decline in sales of champagne by respectable citizens, chary of calling for a magnum, known as a Nebuchadnezzar.
2. Both were clinically insane: Dowding met fairies and angels in the sky and Ludendorff had visited Valhalla.
3. Churchill was out of office because his extreme opposition to Indian independence embarrassed the Tories, who had to rule the place; he therefore had a free hand to denounce German rearmamament, but he never attacked Nazism as such, even after war was declared—until persuaded by his colleagues it was a useful card to play.
4. Fascism was started by the poet-adventurer D'Annunzio, to recover Trieste for Italy—but as Mussolini was isolated, having been driven out of the Socialist Party for taking French payment for encouraging Italian participation in the war, he found it a useful vehicle, and transformed it into a movement for opposing workers occupation of the factories, and finally into a general anti-worker movement. Through upper-class support, he got power.

MARTIN FORAN DAY OF ACTION

There will be another national day of action in support of Martin Foran on the 14th of July. Please send details of any actions to the Martin Foran newsletter. The address is: BCM Foran, London, WC1N 3XX. Please note that this is the new address for the defence campaign — all correspondence should now be sent to this address.



MANCHESTER ABC: A new group in Manchester. Contact:
Manchester ABC,
c/o Raven Press,
75 Piccadilly,
Manchester 1.

PLYMOUTH ABC would like South West contacts. Write to:
Plymouth ABC,
P.O. Box 105,
Plymouth, Devon.

IWW HITS THE NEWS

The Prisoners Organising Project continues to provoke ever widening interest and controversy as more and more inmates take up the struggle. The project took off when 400 working inmates at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville formed a union branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), as reported in *Black Flag no.177*.

The IWW organising drive spread to prisons all over the U.S.A. and on April 8th, the Wobblies' prison project was featured in a four minute sequence on prime time national TV news. The presentation was about as fair as could be expected from the mass media, but the IWW General Secretary Paul Poulas clearly explained the Union's revolutionary position and Lucasville inmates interviewed were unanimous in their enthusiastic support of the union. IWW songs and newsreel footage of historic IWW strikes placed the current drive in perspective. Since then the IWW national address in Chicago has been deluged with requests for literature and membership applications.

The IWW have been vindicated in their attempts to organise the 'unorganisable' and the 'economically weak' and are setting an example to all revolutionary unionists and anarcho syndicalists. The class struggle doesn't end at the prison gates.

FRANK HOFFMANN

On March 18 Frank Hoffmann—wanted by West German police in connection with a shooting at the Frankfurt Startbahn last November and for his suspected involvement in the sabotaging of electricity pylons, etc.—was arrested in Amsterdam. Extradition proceedings were begun. Demonstrations were organised outside the prison where he was held.

Letters to:
Frank Hoffmann,
HvB Helperlinie 4
9722 AZ Groningen
Holland.

There have been two hunger strikes and six suicides in Risley emand centre in the past few months. At present Janine Everard (a French woman in custody for an alleged fraud) is on her sixth week of hunger strike and is rapidly deteriorating. She is protesting at the fact that she will have spent sixteen months in custody before going to trial, in what is becoming a death centre rather than a remand one.

She will not give up her hunger strike until she is granted bail, and meantime the Liverpool Black Cross are picketing the jail daily. (write Liverpool BC P.O. Box 110, Liverpool 690 6AU with letters of support and details of the picket.

A VERY SCABBY COUP

While the trade union Right are trying to force the pace and bring the rest of the TUC with it, the same scenario is taking place within the Labour Party, on Defence matters for example. The over-publicised Peter Wright talked about the coup that prepared the way for the 'libertarian' right, but only hinted at the other coup that brought about a similar reaction within the labour movement. That reaction now seems to be gathering momentum.

Around 1966 Harold Macmillan, lauded as the ideological successor to Disraeli, began floating the idea that Labour economic policies would soon collapse and a national government ('one nation'?) would have to be formed. By January 1967 Cecil King, the Press baron, put the suggestion to Roy Jenkins (then Labour Home Secretary) that this national government should include prominent businessmen. From our own research we can confirm their names. They were Lord Beeching (then deputy Chair of ICI), Lord Sainsbury (later an adviser to Margaret Thatcher), Lord Robins (then head of the National Coal Board and a director of the Bank of England), and Lord Shawcross (former Labour Attorney-General: noted for his 'we are the masters now' speech).

Some months later Iain Macleod (Tory shadow Chancellor) put it to King that the Conservative Party was willing to accept Denis Healey as head of the proposed National Government. Towards the end of 1967 King was told by William Whitelaw that the Tories would prefer Callaghan. All of this took place in the lead-up to the coup meeting between King, Mountbatten, Hugh Cudlipp and Solly Zuckermann, referred to by Wright and throws some light on how and why that meeting took place and some of the events of the '70s.

Around the same time the Labour and trade union right were organising a shift of power from within. The former Gaitskillites were later to form the SDP. A number of CIA-funded 'atlanticist' organisations—such as the Labour Committee for Transatlantic Understanding (LCTU) and the Labour and Trade Union Press Service (LTUPS), which is part of LCTU—were prominent in getting the right people into the right jobs.

The LCTU is the Labour section of the British Atlantic Committee (BAC), a NATO lobby group. Originally the LTUPS was launched from the offices of the BAC but later moved to the offices of the English Speaking Union under the direction of former Labour MP, Alan Lee Williams. The LCTU included senior Labour Party members, such as Lord Stewart (former Foreign Secretary), Roy Mason (former Defence, then Northern Ireland, minister), Dr David Owen (another former Foreign Secretary, now a favourite of Thatcher), Roy Hattersley (now Labour deputy leader), Bill Rodgers (one of the founders of the SDP), John Cartwright (who defected to the SDP); also trade union leaders (eg, Terry Duffy, the then AUEW General Secretary, and Frank Chapple, the then General Secretary of EETPU). The latter two have now been replaced by equally right-wing leaders who are currently trying to either split the TUC or encourage it to move further to the right.

LTUPS was in fact the brainchild of a certain Joseph Godson, a labour attache at the US embassy in London. It was Godson and his son, Dr Roy Godson, who provided one of the many connections between the British labour right and the CIA. Roy Godson was the Secretary of the European Advisor Committee (part of the National Strategy Information Center, based in Washington as an advisory set-up for the CIA—its current director, Ray Cline, has long connections with the far-right World Anti-Communist League). Godson later collaborated with Stephen Haseler (also of the NSIC) in 1979 to promote a split in the Labour Party. Haseler became one of the founders of the Social Democratic Alliance, the embryo of the SDP. At that time Haseler, it should be noted, was also a member of certain notorious far-right groups, including the Freedom Association and the Institute for the Study of Conflict. The SDP were later to expel Haseler once they discovered he was working for the CIA. The other founder of the Social Democratic Alliance, incidentally, was a certain Peter Stephenson, who was to become the editor of Socialist Commentary, a labour right periodical going back to the Gaitskillites, and which was funded by Cecil King's Encounter organisation.

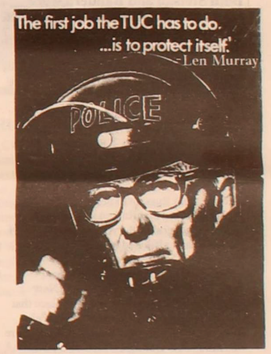
Joe Godson later admitted that additional funding for LTUPS came from certain trade unions and other 'Labour foundations', which is not that surprising since Frank Chapple was the treasurer of LTUPS. There is documentary proof, furthermore, that Chapple channeled funds into LTUPS from Truemid, the organisation set up by SAS founder, Sir David Stirling, to influence the trade union movement by getting far-right stooges elected as trade union leaders (eg, Bill Jordan, whose electoral campaign, making him president of the AUEW, was paid for by Truemid). Chapple arranged the transfer of funds at a dinner event in September 1976—the actual money came from McAlpine's the builders (one of the main funders of the Economic League as well as a major donor to the National Front).

Today the NSIC is funding the Committee for a Free Britain, chaired by former Labour defence secretary, Lord Chalfont. The Committee for a Free Britain (CFB) is part of the empire run by the Committee for a Free World (CFW), whose senior members include various right-wing academics, such as Richard Hoggart, Paul Johnson, Peregrine Worsthorne and Robert Moss (a former speech-writer for Margaret Thatcher and a founder of the Institute for the Study of Conflict). Other CFW members include Sir James Goldsmith (the Media financier and conspirator in the anti-Wilson coup plot—one of the prominent businessmen who Peter Wright referred to as being present at a meeting with him to discuss a takeover), Stephen Haseler and Frank Chapple. It should also be remembered that the Committee for a Free Britain was one of the organisations active prior to the last general election in sponsoring the compiling of a list of 101 Labour MP's considered to be associated with the Militant Tendency.

In other words the assertion that the coup plot was an ongoing one is now proved. The plotters are still active in establishing their people in the trade union leadership as well as organising dirty tricks campaigns against the left. Behind the conspirators are the CIA, through the NSIC, as well as big business (eg Goldsmith, etc). There is also a direct link between the far-right of Thatcherism and the current leadership of the Labour Party, which partly explains recent policy changes.

Going back to Truemid, which is still active, we can reveal that the original founders of that organisation—apart from Stirling—who merely organised the funds—were John Adams (of the GMBATU), Ron McLaughlin (of the AUEW), Syd Davies (also of the AUEW) and John Fraser (of NALGO). One can assert, therefore, that some of the tendencies of the current no-strike unionism can be traced to the efforts of the Truemid clique in the mid-70's. Truemid also has direct links with IRIS (Industrial Research and Information Services), similar to the Economic League, as well as to the Economic League itself. One can assume that it was not improbable that the trade union leaderships of the right were—and still are—providing political information on their members to these vetting organisations as well as making direct use of their blacklisting services to ensure militants are not recruited. Syd Davies was later to leave Truemid, disillusioned, and revealed that the original backers of Truemid were Kleinwort Benson, Morgan Grenfell (both City merchant bankers), Cazenove (City stockbrokers, the Littlewoods organisation, and other City financiers.

Those who wish to destroy or takeover the trade union movement are being financed by big time capitalists. There may be many other prominent trade unionists and Labour Party members who are are anxious that these backers achieve their objectives. It amounts to hi-jacking, no less.



ANARCHISM-WHAT IT STANDS FOR

The fear of ideology is no less than that of freedom. Most people veer off it for fear it leads to commitment and action, those who have been militant in the past expressing this in despair or cynicism. But by doing so they give support to the system: Mrs Thatcher's electoral victory was due to the resigned and apathetic who offer no resistance to mass persuasion. One finds this fear of commitment extending even to people of libertarian views: talk about anarchists, the history—true or false—of anarchism, especially music about, or round and about, anarchism, or even participation in politicised 'week-end' anarchist-type activity, are more in vogue than the desire to know what anarchism is.

Anarchism is a revolutionary theory born of the working-class struggle.To pervert it to any other class is to make it a reactionary theory which, if one calls 'anarchism' rather than liberalism, just devalues the currency of words. It is not what we mean by anarchism. Anarchism without the working class is liberalism, whether it calls itself 'communistic' or 'individualistic'; and lends itself to the cynicism which talks in libertarian terms but supports capitalism.

When the working-class movement arose it was divided in approach. For an idea of the way to proceed, classes as a whole look to the class preceding them in power; hence the Chartists, though revolutionary, looked to parliamentary methods. Inevitably, unsuccessful members of the ruling class, out of power, offer themselves as leaders.



Their parliamentarism became 'the Left' and an instrument of a new class rising to power on the backs of the working class. Even so, what marked working class organisation was the fact of mutual co-operation between the class as opposed to 'looking after No.1': communism versus what was then conceived of as individualism.

There were two types of communist activity: one which looked to the State and one which rejected it. There were those who thought parliamentarism was part of democracy, rather than its bitterest enemy, and there were those who thought all forms of the State were parasitical upon the people.

One type of State communism (Leninism) came to reject parliamentarism but also any form of democracy.

Marxism is a regimented bureaucracy over the workers; anarchism is a means of their controlling their own life. The triumph of the party in Russia is a caricature of Marx, but one which is derived from Marxism. Liberalism sometimes passes off as anarchism nowadays, when the 'armed scholar' conquest of the working class movement which lies at the heart of Marxism (though now of the students more than of the professors); it is complemented by an 'unarmed scholar' take-over of the anarchist name. But any class which requires others to work for it, may be tolerant or liberal, but to survive cannot dispense with authority, cannot be anarchist; and at the drop of a hat becomes all the more authoritarian when it sees the people rising because it has deluded itself that it created the 'monster' which it cannot control.

It is extremely difficult to create an anarchist-type organisation here and now, with the divide-and-rule, the fraud, the bribery, the naked repression, and the propaganda of the media, that characterise capitalism. If it can be done, it can only be in relation to what it is endeavouring to achieve.



What is meant by success in regard to anarchist organisation? It has to be the degree to which it brings back the working class into its own tradition and the form of struggle it evolved. Any class enslaved by or taking over the traditions of another class must be reactionary. Its own forms of struggle were evolved in order to push it forward: parliamentarism was favourable to the bourgeois conquest of power, fatal to the working class with its industrial potential.

That potential has been weakened by State intervention and a shift in production power; and diluted by reformism, the creaming of sections of workers into the side benefits of bourgeois society—whether university education or property owning democracy—which offer the illusion of being part of the bourgeoisie without actually being so. But there is a plain divide between those who advance by mutual aid and those who advance by cut-throat competition; a distinction one sees even in regard to those who work by themselves.

Anarchist resistance now consists both of the struggle based upon this class divide in which those whose economic existence depends on their work; and the war which has to be waged against the ruling class, one of whose weapons is stealing this independence and forcing the workers into subservience to them. Any other approach is a form of Disneyland, a weekend play scheme in which anarchism can be dreamed or re-enacted in play.



This point is underlined in Freedom's June issue in which they write on the differences between the 'two CNTs' (or as they have it—five, counting the four regional variations of the Phoneys to get in the nationalists). The takeover-team of Freedom pretend to be looking for a true assessment of which is authentic, and Bamford ascribes 'internal differences of opinion' on the subject to the DAM (a lie). Only the motley band of renegades round Freedom—its toy groupelets—have any 'doubts'—or so they say. That the so-called Salvador Segui Institute is State-funded troubles them not—how they'd like to be directly so themselves instead of getting academic handouts for publishing 'classics'.

Kennedy's Assassins

Information has come our way that seems to substantiate the theory that the assassination of John F Kennedy was set up by the organisation now known as the World Anti-Communist League. We present this information below.

In 1959 Lee Harvey Oswald was transferred from a U2 base in Japan for special training in Taiwan, the headquarters of the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League—not long after Kennedy received a letter from a former member of the House of Representatives that the Soviet Union was training terrorists to commit murder in Western Europe and the USA. As if to underline this one of Jaroslav Stetzko's leading men, Stefan Bandera, was assassinated in Munich. A Russian agent, Bogdan Statshynsky, was charged with his murder, although there is now proof that it was carried out by agents of the Ghelen Organisation (West German Intelligence). (Bandera was involved with WACL—then known as World Anti-Communist Congress for Freedom and Liberation; WACCFL for short. Both Stetsko and Bandera were high up in the Anti-Bloshevik Block of Nations—ABN. During Statshynsky's trial Bandera's widow was represented by Kersten, a member of the central committee of WACCFL.)

When Oswald returned to the US from a visit to the USSR in 1972 he was met by a former FBI agent, Spas T Raiken, who led a cover agency known as the Travellers Aid Society. Raiken saw to it that Oswald was *transferred to Dallas where he joined the* extreme right Russian exile community. It should be noted that Raiken was also secretary-general of the American Friends of the ABN, and affiliated to WACCFL. Immediately before the assassination of Kennedy, Oswald was residing at the WACCFL office in Gamp Street in New Orleans. This address was also the place that Oswald chose to set up a local for his Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Also residing there was Maurice B Gatlin, a WACCFL affiliate who had associations with top WACCFL people such as Fritz Cramer (a Nazi acting on behalf of ODESSA in Mexico), Ku Cheng Kang (head of WACCFL in Taiwan) and Nestor Procyk (head of the American Friends of ABN).

Only a few hours before Kennedy was murdered a leaflet was distributed in Dallas entitled 'Wanted for Treason'. In this leaflet Kennedy was accused of betraying the USA to the communists. In particular it claimed that he had betrayed several eastern European nations, as well as Cuba and Katanga. It could easily have been produced by WACCFL.

Directly after the murder the European spokesperson for WACCFL, Gerhard Frey (the editor of the nazi paper, Deutsche National-Zeitung und Soldateuzeitung) published accusations against Oswald that not even the FBI knew about and before he had been apprehended. It should be noted that a personal friend of Frey was General Edwin Walker who, together with the oil billionaire HL Hunt, had been investigated by the police in connection with a possible conspiracy. Hunt was a well-known supporter of the ABN as well as WACCFL. Later a letter was found from Oswald to Hunt.

To understand all of this it is also necessary to look at some of the background to what had been going on. Recent submissions to the Christic Institute (which we report on courtesy of Lobster magazine) refers to Operation 40, set up against the Castro regime by vice-president Nixon in 1959. Built into this was a sub-operation (assassinations against Guevra, Fidel and Raul Castro, etc) organised by the mafia head Santos Trafficante. Members of the sub-operation (known as the Shooters Team) included Rafael Quintero, Felix Rodriguez (aka Max Gomez), Luis Posada Carilles, Frank Sturgis (aka Frank Fiorini), etc. Interestingly the first three named were later to be indicted in the Contragate scam, while Sturgis, it should be remembered, was a member of the Plumbers Unit of Watergate fame.

It has later been claimed that Kennedy had no knowledge of the Shooter team and that if he had he would have called them off. Kennedy instead reorganised Operation 40 and renamed it Operation Mongoose, appointing Theodore Shackley and Thomas Clines (both CIA and later involved in Contragate) as the chief organisers. The headquaters of the operation was named JM Wave station in Miami, and Trafficante was kept on to supervise operations at a local level.

Trafficante of course was the country's leading drugs baron and was using the profits from his criminal operations to fund his political activities. His 'political activists' were of course using their status as CIA 'agents' to further their drugs and arms trafficking operations. It can be surmised that if their association with the CIA was ended officially then some of their operations would be jeopardised.

The story comes full circle when it is shown that Jack Ruby had been working direct to Trafficante in Miami. Ruby of course was the man who spectacularly finished Oswald off before the FBI had a chance to properly interrogate him.

EL's YOUTH WING ?

We believe that we have certain information to suggest that the Economic League, the blacklisting agency, has its own youth propaganda wing, funded directly by private companies sympathetic to the EL. Our research has come up with information that on first analysis bears this out, although we hope to investigate further and publish more information on this later.

A couple of issues back we published the grants paid out in 1987 by an organisation called British United Industrialists. These grants went to a number of Conservative Association branches as well as to right-wing think-tanks such as the Coalition for Peace through Security as well as organisations such as the Economic League. Further enquiries revealed that British United Industrialists is a conduit for firms who wish to donate funds to organisations without these donations being made public. Apparently our disclosure of BUI's grants were the first time that these had been made public and has subsequently created a growing interest into the activities of BUI.

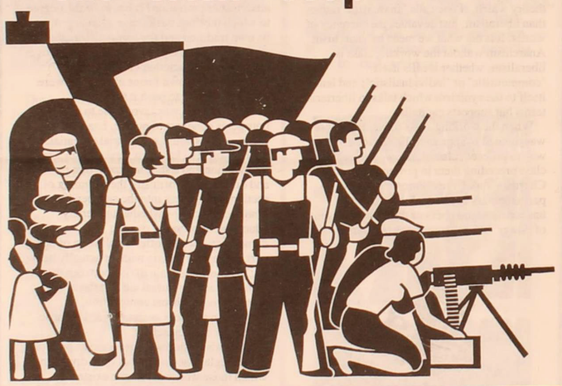
One research group has discovered some of the contributers to BUI. This information has been passed on to us. Subsequently we can reveal that BUI's top contributors are: Allied Lyons (65,000), Marks & Spencer (50,000), Taylor Woodrow (30,000), Guardian Royal Exchange (35,000), Christian Salveson, Legal & General and De La Rue (each 10,000). The BUI itself has been going for some years. It was formed in the 1940's as the British United Industrial Association and later amalgamated with United Industries and the Home Counties Industrial Association. In those early days it was headed by a certain Lord Renwick.

We decided to investigate one of the organisations which received a grant from BUI, namely an obscure set-up called Young Enterprise. Our enquiries revealed that YE is supported by numerous businesses, large and small, famous and not so. They also revealed that an organisation with close connections with YE is Trusec-an organisation that appears on the surface to be possibly linked to TRUEMID, the right-wing union set-up, but we will have to investigate further here.

But then we came up trumps. One of the directors of YE is a certain Bernard Frederick Wheeler, who gives his address as 7 Wine Office Court. This address is none other than the main address of the Economic League. Presumably Wheeler is an official of EL. Out of curiosity we noted his other directorships. The more recent ones include the Paddington Building Society, Biomechanics Ltd and Cropfleet Ltd. Wheeler provides a direct link between the EL and YE. (And of course the YE is also funded in part by a conduit which funds the EL. The stated aims of YE are to educate the young into the enterprise culture; in this way they act as a propaganda unit but also provide themselves with an opportunity to get information on young people which they could pass on to sympathetic organisations (such as EL).

The Next Step

When proposals for building an anarcho-syndicalist union are put forward, they sound grandiose to those who do not know what it is. It is not an 'anarchist TUC'; it is not a repetition of the old Communist Party 'minority movement' whereby alternative unions are set up which divide the workers; it not a Union of Syndicalist Miners to the left of the NUM what the Union of Democratic Miners is on its right. No doubt it could be any of these things; if so it would be doomed to failure.



A movement built from the bottom up cannot divide; a movement built from the top down cannot reflect the interests of its people.

Its basis was originated by the French CGT in its anarcho-syndicalist days and called the Bourse du Travail (translated as labour exchange which has another meaning in English).

The so-called centro or local was copied by the Spanish CNT: in the IWW it was known as the labour hall. During the syndicalist period of British labour it adapted the trades and labour hall and incorporated many other things (such as workers institutes, libraries, co-ops etc.). To show how achievable it is we'll stick here with the term 'workers clubs'—an anarcho-syndicalist union is a federation of workers clubs of a distinctive sort.

Workers Clubs

Every worker should have the right to join the clubs—employed or not, irrespective of gender. Distinction between workers and unemployed is reactionary: this and craft disfigures the present union movement. 'Claimants unions', at present necessary would be redundant. One club—for advice, for work, for unity—one district. What the French were thinking of in the word 'exchange' was that workers of any or no craft would come along to the club and get what work was going: as union members they could switch from one thing to another (something particularly noted in Spain and with the old IWW).
(None of this 'you're a docker, not a printer -our own people need work'—as if you came from Mars—an attitude that soon lends itself to racism). Craft training was given in France—study courses arranged in syndicalist Britain, study of how to take control went on in all cases, for this was the ultimate aim.

The politician's guidance was not needed—which is why the careerists hated it—and the whole idea upset Marxism which taught that a working class organisation could only achieve a mentality of economic gains and needed an educated leadership (once the professors, now the students) to carry it forward to positive aims. Even when having to accept it, they claimed it would if permanent ultimately become reactionary—but this only happened if they took control.

From the clubs those who went into factories formed their industrial groups there: the 'syndicate' was part of 'the commune' This explains why the CNT's strongest union (la Gastronomica) was where the TUC to this day has never succeeded in organising—among the bars and kitchens, sometimes with but one or two staff—for they depend on deliveries and customers as well as staff, all lost in the case of a strike.

It need not follow that members of the clubs cease to be trade unionists; in the present British climate it is doubtful if they will. Even orthodox trade unionism is anathema to creeping (real) fascism—and the smashing of its rights distinguishes it from democracy so that defence of orthodox trade unionism is a bulwark against State tyranny—whatever illusions unionism may foster. No more than the shop stewards movement—in itself a kind of unideological syndicalism—the clubs would not divide one section from another, but unite them firmer, and the conception of dual unionism would be meaningless.

The conception of anarcho-syndicalist unions, expressed as forming clubs, is highly possible. The vestiges of the syndicalist trades halls still exist; though in most cases taken over by the Labour Party they at least bear witness to the fact that we're not talking about something in the air. Perhaps only an embryo organisation can now be built—but something uniting workers with paid work, fighting in defence of their interests, with those without it, and with those at home, could rapidly grow from small beginnings given a moderate degree of success.

During the General Strike it was seen that even in the orthodox labour movement, the trades councils were the centres of entire cities, something lost by socialist politicking. During the Spanish revolution, collectivised seizure of industry and of the land was possible where there were local 'communes', a federation of the old centros or locals from which the unions penetrated into industry.

Workers councils

In the short German revolution after WWI workers councils were formed which took over the places of work. These were imbalanced in that they did not represent the consumer too—something which led to friction—but they showed how rapidly workers control could grow. Those who claim workers councils now are possible do not understand these are not composed of one or two people but of everybody at work—in which case there would be no need for an industrial based union. Unless we are to sit back and chant 'workers councils' and hope for a spontaneously combusted revolution, the only way of achieving workers councils is by penetration of industry from local clubs. We can begin building those clubs right now. All anarcho-syndicalist unions grew rapidly—within four or five years, either from scratch or after total repression.

All that stands between us and a free worker society is the present-day apathy and cynicism that can only be dispelled by the vigour of a new initiative.

A.M.

Dear Friends,

Reference the letters column in BF 182, it's good to see Black Flag refuses to compromise its position on Marxism and has not watered down its anarchist content to suit the moment.

Years ago I was told Lenin was all right, Stalin was the bad guy who perverted the revolution. Now Lenin, too, comes under scrutiny. But still they won't tear down the last icon. It was only a minority of Marxists who refused to jump on the Bolshevik bandwagon, waiting for spontaneity, keeping their ideology pure. They called the state communist monoliths state capitalist to make excuses for their marxism. I, for one, don't excuse Marxism—and if Bakunin were alive today he'd say 'I told you so!

As for R.B. (the bastard council-communist????????) he seems to be excusing trot groups (SWP, Militant, etc)—I've been hearing for years about these 'transitional demands'. Am I really to be expected to fight for something which they 'don't actually mean'? Is this a joke or something? (Alright, lads, you put everything you've worked for all your lives on the line and fight for this…er, of course we don't really mean it). If you're going to fight for something, surely you've got to mean it? It's just downright dishonest and misleading to do otherwise. And the right to a general strike, well I've always considered it a right. It never occurred to me whether it was legal or not.

I do know this—it's a fact that under 'free-market planning' working people are generally better off than under sterile 'state planning'. I'm not blowing a trumpet for capitalism in saying that; I'm living in the real world. Ask any worker in the Russian utopia.

Let's start saying what we do mean. Anarchists do not have to choose between the Marxist devil and the Tory deep blue sea. The real 'third force' is not any bunch of hotch-potch politicians walking a tight-rope between left and right; it is anarchism.

Fraternally,

Leslie Doe

Dear Flag,

I was interested in your piece of Anarchist History regarding East London, especially regarding the horse transport workers. Hammersmith too was a centre of anarchist activity from the earliest days until very late (there were still veterans about until WW2). It is true, though I never grasped the significance before, that most of the ageing veterans in the late 30s were formerly in horse transport one way or another, and dropped out when cars came in. Any reason? I would have thought anarchists would have had no objection to sparing the exploitation of horses!

Bob

REPLY: The horses, when no longer profitable, were slaughtered and the London horse has all but vanished. Possibly (only a guess) anarchists entered horse transport because it was more independent than factory work (no one thought in those days in terms of animal exploitation) and built up a form of organisation which attracted other like-minded people. With the then 'new technology' making their craft redundant employers took the opportunity to sack them and anyone else whose face didn't fit (as today).

Dear Comrades,

I am writing to comment on your article Towards a Citizens Militia *(No. 179) which was OK-ish but not comprehensive enough to warrant printing.*

I refer to the distinction you make between social and anti-social crimes' which begins and ends all right but deteriorates in the middle with the section on robbing yuppies. I presume this means to burgle a yuppie as opposed to mugging i.e. attacking in the street, in the dark, etc. However, this is not made at all clear. I believe it is important that anarchists shouldd take a stance against all those kinds of street attacks (one would not suggest it's OK to rape a bourgeois). How could a person make the distinction of what class another belonged to in a dark alley? Clothes etc do not distinguish class these days, neither does class distinguish attitudes precisely and, in any case, it's still anti-social!

I was convicted in 1974 for ABH, which was merely a punch-up at work. However, the police charged me because the punch-up evolved out of a political dispute i.e. my pinning ABC material on the notice board which the 'victim' kept tearing down. When I confronted him, he threatened me with a shovel so I hit him. I lost in court because, not knowing the law then, I admitted to striking the first blow.

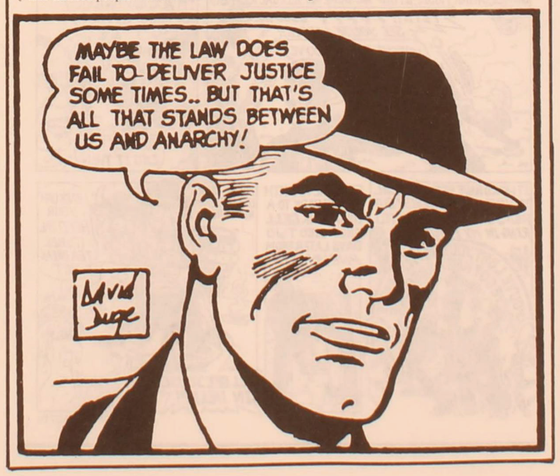
I mention this because I'm not proud of it, it was something forced on me, and something an anarchist society would distinguish as against the bourgeois law. As with striking miners dropping concrete blocks on taxis.

Resistance against bourgeois legal anti-social crime must be discriminate . I would hope Black Flag can do a more in depth article on crime without resorting to the 'bash the rich' nonsense. The article failed to explain how workers defence groups could come into existence. It could have explained about syndicalism and the syndicalist movement in Britain up until 1914, of how fast the ideas caught on and how ripe the time is now for the re-creation of syndicalism , specifically anarcho-syndicalism, especially when the rank and file are leaving their professional non-strike unions to join industrial unions.

All the best.

GS

REPLY: Unfortunately, the past British syndicalist movement failed to develop a theory on anti-social crime prevention; the article we published may have misled, but it did introduce the subject. We agree that we must take a stance against mugging or street violence other than self-defence against fascism or scabbing. Burgling is private capitalism beyond the law: we don't advocate it but would urge burglars or muggers for that matter to leave the working class alone. In fact, it predominates against them: only the highly professional rob mansions, the majority snatch old ladies' handbags in the High Street).



POLL TAX

Within weeks the first poll tax victims could be charged for refusing to register. Many will; the Labour Party is advocating protesting but paying up all the same. There may be some among the working class who will find they too pay less under the poll tax than the rates scheme which generally favours the well-to-do. But don't be fooled. Nothing prevents the Government now or later from having both: the original poll tax of 600 years ago so often quoted, which sparked off the Peasants Revolt, was one tax; income tax had not been introduced. There is intended to be in any case two taxes, income and poll tax, and could well be a third, rates, ostensibly to make it sound fair so that the well-to-do pay something more but actually makaing everyone cough up twice over for municipal charges, in addition to curtailing the actual benefits.

Poll tax registration is already operating in Scotland where resistance is already being shown. Charge officers in Strathclyde, Scotland's largest region, are already consideringmg prosecuting electors who have not signed, and when Scotland is whipped into line by next April, the Government will know how to proceed in England and Wales. They have picked on Scotland first because there are huge anomalies arising there from the poll tax, little electoral support for the government but, most of all. because there is the maximum opposition, but at least they hope (and they have the measure of the parliamentary opposition) to have the minimum chance of any effective resistance. Maximum opposition and minimum resistance will be the key for the rest of the mainland.

You can bet they wouldn't first introduce it into Northern Ireland—though Ulster would appear to have all the strikes against it Scotland has. One can understand why there are no plans announced to introduce the poll tax in the Six Counties at all—haven't they troubles enough there?—for Ulster's reaction might not be as passive as Scotland's is hoped to be.



MODERATE EXTREMIST—OR EXTREME MODERATE?

Reporting to the Blackpool assembly of train drivers, ASLEF 'left wing' general secretary Neil Milligan says the trade union movement is 'confronted by extremists' and warns trade unionists to 'remain vigilant' in defence of moderation. By all means, but what's extreme and what's moderate? Should drivers take trains at a moderate pace or the Fire Brigade proceed to the scene moderately? Or is that taking moderation to extremes? Between the extremism of State control and privatisation is workers' control moderate?

SKELETON VOTING

The reformist wing of the Class War Federation, having milked the anarchist movement for maximum publicity by using its name, now enters bourgeois politics by announcing a candidate for the Kensington by-election. Sure-fire press publicity there—an 'anarchist' standing for Parliament!—and if they genuinely go and plunge a grand on the deposit, a cheap way of 'bashing the rich' which the latter can well afford to endure passively. Maybe more than a dozen votes in it it-many a rich kid is thinking 'my daddy bashed me so now let's bash rich daddy'.

Loads of oddball reformist candidates go in for fun runs at by-elections—there's a long list lined up for Kensington—and for this and future elections the Rainbow Alliance, the Raving Loonies, Traffic Control, Flat Earth, Clean Earth, Friendship, you name it—they'll all put in their five cents, apart from the SPGB, the trots and the CP. It's a hangover from the days when there were Independent MPs (they disappeared when single votes came in). At best, they're a piss-take, even a bit of a protest, but serve as a substitute for action while giving the appearance of activity.

SPECTACULAR TIMES

New issue called 'Bugger Cages, Longer Chains'. More spectacular stuff from the ST stable. Usual high standard. Full list of all titles from ST. This edition 90 pence. Get it from Spectacular Times, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1.

CHUMBAWAMBA SINGLE

On Clause 28 and fighting the Alton Bill. Chumbawamba say: '…David Alton MP has vowed to pursue his hysteric Holy War…Clause 28 is now Section 28…The fight against Clause 28 must now become a fight against its implementation.' All profits for the record will go equally to Gay Switchboard and Women's Reproductive Rights Campaign.

An Agit-Prop record, distributed by Red Rhino & The Cartel.

BLACK FLAG CRISIS

The crisis we referred to in our last issue is still on! There has been a good response but we still have to find loadsamoney and would urge overdue subscribers to cough up: we admit our own inefficiencies in never sending reminders when subs are up but it looks as though we may soon have to cut off not only overdue subs but everyone else in the bargain! Can we have a booster please that will help us get through—we're not just crying 'wolf'…

PERSONAL

Paul and Steve are sorry about the delay in the 'Insurrection tour' but something has come up! We hope to commence very soon. Cheers.
Elephant, PO Box 105, Plymouth.

An interesting advert was placed recently in *Ethnos*, the left wing Athens daily. An 'international consortium of private companies and foundations dealing with the fight against terrorism around the world' will pay up to one million Swiss franks for any information leading to the arrest of any terrorist. Anonymity is apparently guaranteed and the following contact numbers were given:
Luxemburg…. (352) 48 06 73
West Germany. (0228) 48 52 21
France…… (1) 47 54 01 33
Turkey…… (4) 222 89 07
Netherlands.. (070) 47 10 65
USA…… (404) 237 66 06

We might not be able to afford one million francs, but a year's free subscription goes to anybody who can pass on any information which can identify the groups or companies behind this ad.